

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1253

Introduced by Assembly Member Coto

February 22, 2005

An act to add Section 51225 to the Education Code, relating to public education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1253, as introduced, Coto. Middle school and junior high school: requirements for matriculation.

Under existing law, except as specified, a pupil may not receive a diploma of graduation from high school if that pupil, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed specified academic requirements.

This bill would provide that a pupil may not matriculate to high school unless that pupil has satisfied all requirements of the required curriculum for middle school or junior high school, as applicable, adopted by the governing board of the school district.

The bill would also impose a state mandated local program by requiring each school district to develop programs to provide background knowledge and support for pupils who have not yet achieved the skills and knowledge required for promotion to high school.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
3 (1) Up to half of the pupils in many ninth grade classes in
4 California are socially promoted to high school, lacking the skills
5 and background knowledge necessary to complete the work
6 required in high school.
7 (2) Many of these pupils are frequently truant from school and
8 create problems in communities, or they remain on campus
9 creating truancy problems and campus disturbances.
10 (3) Many of these pupils also drop out of high school and
11 cause many problems for our society.
12 (4) In order to increase expectations with respect to the
13 academic performance of pupils in our high schools, we must
14 have an orderly campus environment that is made up of pupils
15 who are prepared to perform the work that is required in high
16 school courses.
17 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that
18 would require that pupils complete junior high school or middle
19 school before being promoted to high school.
20 SEC. 2. Section 51225 is added to the Education Code, to
21 read:
22 51225. (a) A pupil may not matriculate to high school unless
23 that pupil has satisfied all requirements of the required
24 curriculum for middle school or junior high school, as applicable,
25 adopted by the governing board of the school district.
26 (b) Each school district shall develop programs to provide
27 background knowledge and support for pupils who have not yet
28 achieved the skills and knowledge required for promotion to high
29 school.
30 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
31 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
32 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
33 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
34 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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